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January 14, 2001

The Honorable Brian Porter
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Porter:

Today I am formally transmitting to the Legislature an appropriations bill to implement the recommendations of the administration's Terrorism Disaster Policy Cabinet regarding state security and response capabilities in the aftermath of September 11th. The bill covers costs incurred to date fulfilling immediate requirements such as airport security, as well as increased preparedness and response capabilities for the rest of FY2002 and all of FY2003. This comprehensive bill also funds capital investments for transportation security, emergency response equipment and other high priority recommendations of the cabinet group.

I forwarded a draft of this legislation to you in November with a request for advance hearings to facilitate prompt consideration of the proposal in the beginning weeks of the session. Although those hearings were not held, we made the Terrorism Disaster Policy Cabinet's report and budget detail on their recommendations widely available to legislators and the public via the Internet. As anticipated in my November letter, the final bill has some updates from that earlier version although there are no changes to the basic recommendations for action.

Detecting and responding to threats of terrorism is no longer a theoretical exercise. Like all other states, Alaska must make its own risk assessment and determine the appropriate levels of security and emergency response capabilities to meet our responsibilities to our citizens.

This critical state policy decision requires the best efforts of the administration and the legislature. I pledge the full assistance of my commissioners and others to assisting you in your earliest possible review of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Knowles".
Tony Knowles
Governor